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3     **CLAIMS**

4     I (We) claim:  
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6     1. A dynamic spinal plate for stabilizing adjacent vertebrae comprising and elongated shaft with  
7     a proximal surface and a distal surface, said elongated shaft having a first bar near one end  
8     adapted for connection with a vertebra, said shaft having an opposite end, at least a second bar  
9     movably attached near said opposite end, said first and second bars each having a screw hole  
10    adapted to seat a screw head, a clip attached to said second bar, said clip having a retainer  
11    spanning said screw hole.  
12

13    2. A dynamic spinal plate of claim 1 wherein said first bar is fixed to said shaft, said first bar  
14    extending transverse to said elongated shaft, screw holes in said first bar on each side of said  
15    elongated shaft, a clip attached to said first bar, said clip having a retainer spanning each of said  
16    screw holes.  
17

18    3. A dynamic spinal plate of claim 2 wherein said second bar extends transverse to said  
19    elongated shaft, screw holes in said second bar on each side of said elongated shaft, said clip  
20    attached to said second bar having a retainer spanning each of said screw holes.

1 4. A dynamic spinal plate of claim 1 wherein said elongated shaft has a longitudinal groove  
2 along each side, said second bar including a central depression with shoulders on each side, each  
3 of said shoulders engaging said longitudinal groove along each side of said shaft for slidable  
4 movement of said second bar along said shaft with said central depression in close contact with  
5 said elongated shaft.

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7 5. A dynamic spinal plate of claim 2 wherein said elongated shaft has a longitudinal groove  
8 along each side, said second bar including a central depression with shoulders on each side, each  
9 of said shoulders engaging said longitudinal groove along each side of said shaft for slidable  
10 movement of said second bar along said shaft with said central depression in close contact with  
11 said elongated shaft.

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13 6. A dynamic spinal plate of claim 3 wherein said elongated shaft has a longitudinal groove  
14 along each side, said second bar including a central depression with shoulders on each side, each  
15 of said shoulders engaging said longitudinal groove along each side of said shaft for slidable  
16 movement of said second bar along said shaft with said central depression in close contact with  
17 said elongated shaft.

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19 7. A dynamic spinal plate of claim 3 wherein a third bar is slidably attached near said opposite  
20 end of said elongated shaft, said third bar extends transverse to said elongated shaft, screw holes  
21 in said third bar on each side of said elongated shaft, a clip fixed to said third bar having a

1     retainer spanning each of said screw holes.

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3     8. A dynamic spinal plate of claim 7 wherein said elongated shaft has a longitudinal groove  
4     along each side, said second bar and said third bar each including a central depression with  
5     shoulders on each side, each of said shoulders engaging said longitudinal groove along each side  
6     of said shaft for slidable movement of said third bar along said shaft with said central depression  
7     in close contact with said elongated shaft.

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9     9. A dynamic spinal plate of claim 1 wherein said shaft has transverse teeth formed in said distal  
10    surface along the length thereof, said clip having a pawl portion seated between adjacent teeth.

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12    10. A dynamic spinal plate of claim 2 wherein said shaft has transverse teeth formed in said  
13    distal surface along the length thereof, said clip attached to said second bar having a pawl portion  
14    seated between adjacent teeth.

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16    11. A dynamic spinal plate of claim 3 wherein said shaft has transverse teeth formed in said  
17    distal surface along the length thereof, said clip attached to said second bar having a pawl portion  
18    seated between adjacent teeth.

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20    12. A dynamic spinal plate of claim 4 wherein said shaft has transverse teeth formed in said

1 distal surface along the length thereof, said clip attached to said second bar having a pawl portion  
2 seated between adjacent teeth.

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4 13. A dynamic spinal plate of claim 7 wherein said shaft has transverse teeth formed in said  
5 distal surface along the length thereof, each said clip attached to said second and said third bar  
6 having a pawl portion seated between adjacent teeth.

7  
8 14. A dynamic spinal plate of claim 9 wherein said transverse teeth are angled toward said  
9 opposite end whereby said shaft may advance through said second bar shortening the distance  
10 between said first bar and said second bar, said pawl portion and said transverse teeth preventing  
11 lengthening said distance.

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13 15. A dynamic spinal plate of claim 14 wherein said first bar is fixed to said shaft, said first bar  
14 extending transverse to said elongated shaft, screw holes in said first bar on each side of said  
15 elongated shaft, a clip attached to said first bar, said clip having a retainer spanning each of said  
16 screw holes, said second bar extends transverse to said elongated shaft, screw holes in said  
17 second bar on each side of said elongated shaft, a clip attached to said second bar having a  
18 retainer spanning each of said screw holes, said elongated shaft having a longitudinal groove  
19 along each side, said second bar including a central depression with shoulders on each side, each  
20 of said shoulders engaging said longitudinal groove along each side of said shaft for slidable  
21 movement of said second bar along said shaft with said central depression in close contact with

1 said elongated shaft.

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3 16. A dynamic spinal plate of claim 15 wherein a third bar is slidably attached near said opposite  
4 end of said elongated shaft, said third bar extends transverse to said elongated shaft, screw holes  
5 in said third bar on each side of said elongated shaft, a clip fixed to said third bar having a  
6 retainer spanning each of said screw holes, said clip fixed to said third bar including a pawl  
7 portion, whereby said shaft may advance through said third bar shortening the distance between  
8 said first bar, said second bar, and said third bar, said pawl portion of said clip fixed to said third  
9 bar and said transverse teeth preventing lengthening said distance.

10  
11 17. A dynamic spinal plate for stabilizing adjacent vertebrae comprising an elongated shaft with  
12 a proximal surface and a distal surface, said shaft having one bar fixed at one end adapted for  
13 connection with a vertebra, said bar extending laterally normal to said elongated shaft, screw  
14 holes in said one bar on each side of said elongated shaft, said shaft having an opposite free end,  
15 said shaft having a set of transverse teeth formed on said distal surface, at least a second bar  
16 movably attached near said free end of said plate, said second bar adapted for connection with an  
17 adjacent vertebra, said second bar extending laterally normal to said elongated shaft, screw holes  
18 in said second bar on each side of said elongated shaft, said second bar including an attached  
19 clip, said clip having a flange engaging said teeth and securing said second bar along the length  
20 of said plate thereby maintaining the space between said one bar and said second bar.

1 18. A dynamic spinal plate of claim 17 wherein said elongated shaft has a longitudinal groove  
2 along each side, said second bar including a central depression with shoulders on each side, each  
3 of said shoulders engaging said longitudinal groove along each side of said shaft for slidable  
4 movement of said second bar along said shaft with said central depression in close contact with  
5 said elongated shaft.

6  
7 19. A dynamic spinal plate of claim 18 wherein said transverse teeth are angled toward said  
8 opposite end whereby said shaft may advance through said second bar shortening the distance  
9 between said first bar and said second bar, said pawl portion and said transverse teeth preventing  
10 lengthening said distance.

11  
12 20. A dynamic spinal plate of claim 19 including a third bar movably attached near said free end,  
13 said third bar having a central depression with shoulders on each side, each of said shoulders  
14 engaging said longitudinal groove along each side of said shaft for slidable movement of said  
15 third bar along said shaft with said central depression in close contact with said elongated shaft,  
16 said third bar including an attached clip, said clip having a flange engaging said teeth and  
17 securing said third bar along the length of said plate thereby maintaining the space between said  
18 one bar and said second bar.